

BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER  
& GROSSMANN LLP  
Blair A. Nicholas (Bar No. 178428)  
12481 High Bluff Drive, Suite 300  
San Diego, CA 92130  
Tel: (858) 793-0070  
Fax: (858) 793-0323

*Counsel to Vinayak R. Pai Defined  
Benefits Pension Plan and Proposed  
Lead Counsel to the Class*

E-filing

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

SC

VINAYAK R. PAI DEFINED BENEFITS  
PENSION PLAN, on Behalf of Itself and all  
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE CHARLES SCHWAB CORPORATION,  
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO. INC.,  
CHARLES SCHWAB INVESTMENT  
MANAGEMENT, INC., SCHWAB  
INVESTMENTS, CHARLES R. SCHWAB,  
EVELYN DILSAVER, RANDALL W.  
MERK, GREGORY HAND, GEORGE  
PEREIRA, DONALD F. DOWARD,  
MARIANN BYERWALTER, WILLIAM A.  
HASLER, ROBERT G. HOLMES, GERALD  
B. SMITH, DONALD R. STEPHENS,  
MICHAEL W. WILSEY and JEFF LYONS,

Defendants.

Case No. 08 Civ. 2058

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS  
TRIAL BY JURY**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

1 Plaintiff Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension Plan ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of itself  
2 and all others similarly situated, by and through its undersigned counsel, Bernstein Litowitz  
3 Berger & Grossmann LLP, alleges the following based upon knowledge with respect to its own  
4 acts, and based upon facts obtained through investigation by its counsel.

5 **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

6 1. This complaint arises from Defendants' marketing and sale of the Schwab  
7 YieldPlus Fund (the "Fund") – a purportedly conservative mutual fund – pursuant to registration  
8 statements and prospectuses that contained untrue statements about the Fund's investment  
9 portfolio and risk profile. Described to Plaintiff and other investors as only "marginally" more  
10 risky than investing in a cash equivalent, the Fund was supposed to invest in "ultra" short-term,  
11 low-risk debt instruments that would not subject it to significant liquidity risks or fluctuations in  
12 share price.

13 2. Contrary to its publicly-disclosed investment guidelines, Defendants caused the  
14 Fund to invest heavily in high-risk, mortgage-backed instruments, including complex illiquid  
15 instruments. Indeed, from March 17, 2005 to March 28, 2008 (the "Class Period")  
16 approximately 40% of the Fund's assets were invested in complex mortgage-backed instruments  
17 known as Collateralized Mortgage Obligations ("CMOs").

18 3. These drastic, undisclosed changes in the Fund's investment profile significantly  
19 increased the risk to which Plaintiff and the Class were exposed. Moreover, those changes  
20 directly violated representations in the Fund's Registration Statements and Prospectuses (defined  
21 below) regarding the diversity, credit risk and liquidity of the Fund's investments.

22 4. In mid-2007, the collapse of the United States mortgage market to which the Fund  
23 had tied its fate revealed the risks inherent in the Fund's deviation from its investment guidelines.  
24 As the market for the Fund's long-term mortgage-backed securities evaporated, the Fund was  
25 forced to sell those securities into an illiquid market, causing Plaintiff and the Class to incur  
26 massive losses.

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28 ///

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to Sections 11, 12(a)(2) and 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. §§ 77k, 77l(a)(2) and 77o).

6. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under Section 22 of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v, and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

7. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 22 of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77v, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because the defendants maintain an office in this District, the corporate defendants are headquartered in this District, and many of the acts and practices complained of herein occurred in substantial part in this District.

8. In connection with the acts alleged in this complaint, Defendants, directly or indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including, but not limited to, the mails, interstate telephone communications, the internet, and the facilities of the national securities markets.

## PARTIES

9. Plaintiff Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension Plan ("Plaintiff") purchased approximately 38,039 Select Shares of the Fund between May 16, 2005 and October 10, 2006, at total cost of over \$367,000. Those shares were purchased pursuant to the Registration Statement and Prospectus (defined herein), as set forth in the accompanying certification. As a result of the untrue statements in the Registration Statements and Prospectuses, Plaintiff has incurred a loss of more than \$54,000, representing approximately 15% of his investment.

10. The Schwab YieldPlus Fund (the "Fund") is an open-ended mutual fund organized as a Massachusetts business trust registered under the Investment Company Act. The Fund has issued two series of securities: Investor Shares (Ticker: SWYPX) and Select Shares (Ticker: SWYSX). The Investor and Select Shares were issued to investors pursuant to the following series of registration statements filed with the SEC and made effective during the Class Period, which are referred to collectively as the "Registration Statements":

- Registration Statement filed pursuant to Form N-1A on November 14, 2004, and made effective as of November 15, 2004 (the "2004 Registration Statement");

- Registration Statement filed pursuant to Form N-1A on November 14, 2005, and made effective as of November 15, 2005 (the "2005 Registration Statement");
- Registration Statement filed pursuant to Form N-1A on November 14, 2006, and made effective as of November 15, 2006 (the "2006 Registration Statement");
- Registration Statement filed pursuant to Form N-1A on November 14, 2007, and made effective as of November 15, 2007 (the "2007 Registration Statement"); and

The Investor and Select Shares of the Fund were marketed and sold to investors pursuant to the following series of prospectuses, which were supplemented periodically and which are referred to collectively herein as the "Prospectuses":

- Prospectus dated November 15, 2004 (the "2004 Prospectus");
- Prospectus dated November 15, 2005 (the "2005 Prospectus");
- Prospectus dated November 15, 2006 (the "2006 Prospectus"); and
- Prospectus dated November 15, 2007 (the "2007 Prospectus").

11. Defendant Charles Schwab Investment Management, Inc. ("Schwab Management") has its headquarters at 101 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94104. Schwab Management is the investment advisor to the Fund and, as such, oversees the management and administration of the Fund and acts as a control person of the Fund. As compensation for these services, Schwab Management receives a management fee from the Fund.

12. Defendant Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. ("Schwab") is headquartered at 101 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94104. Schwab is the parent company of Schwab Investments. Pursuant to a Distribution Agreement, Schwab was the principal underwriter during the Class Period for shares of the Fund and is the agent for the purpose of the continuous offering of the Fund's shares.

13. Defendant The Charles Schwab Corporation ("Schwab Corp.") is headquartered at 101 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94104. Schwab Corp. is the parent company of Schwab and Schwab Investments. Schwab Corp. is a control person of Schwab and Schwab Management, its wholly owned subsidiaries, and Charles Schwab Investment, Inc.

1           14. Defendant Schwab Investments ("Schwab Investments") was the registrant and  
2 issuer of the Fund's shares. Schwab Investments has its headquarters at 101 Montgomery Street,  
3 San Francisco, California 94104. Schwab Investments was organized under Massachusetts law  
4 on October 26, 1990.

5           15. Defendant Charles R. Schwab ("Charles Schwab") is Chairman and Trustee of  
6 Schwab Investments and the Funds. Charles Schwab signed or authorized the signing of the  
7 false and misleading Registration Statements. As a result of his ownership of and interests in the  
8 Charles Schwab Corporation, Mr. Schwab is a controlling person of Schwab and Schwab  
9 Management.

10           16. Defendant Evelyn Dilsaver ("Dilsaver") was President and Chief Executive  
11 Officer of the Fund and signed the 2004 Registration Statement, 2005 Registration Statement and  
12 2006 Registration Statement.

13           17. Defendant Randall W. Merk ("Merk") was a Trustee and then President and Chief  
14 Executive Officer of the Fund subsequent to Defendant Dilsaver's departure from Schwab.  
15 Defendant Merk signed the 2005 Registration Statement, 2006 Registration Statement and 2007  
16 Registration Statement.

17           18. Defendant George Pereira ("Pereira") has been Chief Financial Officer and  
18 Treasurer of the Fund and signed the 2005 Registration Statement, 2006 Registration Statement  
19 and 2007 Registration Statement.

20           19. Defendant Gregory Hand ("Hand") was Acting Treasurer and Principal Financial  
21 Officer of the Fund and signed the 2004 Registration Statement.

22           20. Defendant Mariann Byerwalter ("Byerwalter") is a Trustee who signed the  
23 Registration Statements.

24           21. Defendant Donald F. Doward ("Doward") is a Trustee who signed the  
25 Registration Statements.

26           22. Defendant William A. Hasler ("Hasler") is a Trustee who signed the Registration  
27 Statements.  
28

1           23. Defendant Robert G. Holmes ("Holmes") is a Trustee who signed the Registration  
2 Statements.

3           24. Defendant Gerald B. Smith ("Smith") is a Trustee who signed the Registration  
4 Statements.

5           25. Defendant Donald R. Stephens ("Stephens") is a Trustee who signed the  
6 Registration Statements.

7           26. Defendant Michael W. Wilsey ("Wilsey") is a Trustee who signed the  
8 Registration Statements.

9           27. Defendant Jeff Lyons ("Lyons") was a Trustee who signed the 2004 Registration  
10 Statement.

11           28. The Defendants referenced above in paragraphs 15-27 are collectively referred to  
12 herein as the "Individual Defendants."

### 13                                   **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

14           29. In 1999, Schwab and Schwab Management established the Fund as a purportedly  
15 safe alternative to money market funds with higher yields. Throughout the Class Period,  
16 Defendants marketed the Fund through the Prospectuses as an "ultrashort bond fund" designed to  
17 invest primarily in investment grade bonds with a duration of one year or less.

18           30. The Fund's basic strategy – as described by the Prospectus – was to achieve high  
19 income returns while avoiding the risks of interest rate fluctuations, illiquidity or share price  
20 fluctuations by focusing the Fund's portfolio in very short-term, highly rated, fixed-income  
21 securities. The Prospectuses touted the Fund's short duration strategy as "maintain[ing] an  
22 average portfolio duration of *one year or less*" in order to "maintain price share stability and  
23 preserve investor capital."

24           31. Contrary to the Fund's investment guidelines, Schwab Management shifted the  
25 Fund's assets into longer-duration bonds, including extensive investments in high-risk mortgage  
26 backed securities and similar investments. Mortgage backed securities posed a particular risk to  
27 the Fund by drastically increasing exposure to the very interest rate risk that the Fund's  
28 investment strategy purported to minimize. While rising interest rates may cause the value of



1 highly-rated corporate or government bonds to decrease, such rate changes generally do not  
2 increase the risk that the bonds would default. In contrast, instruments backed by residential  
3 mortgages – and by subprime mortgages in particular – face a significantly heightened risk of  
4 default from interest rate spikes. Focusing on mortgage-backed securities also heightened the  
5 Fund's concentration risk by eroding the diversity of its investments, in violation of its investing  
6 guidelines.

7 32. By November 30, 2005, 23.2% of the Fund's approximately \$6.1 billion in net  
8 assets were invested in mortgage backed securities. By November 30, 2006, the Fund's  
9 investments in high-risk mortgage backed securities ballooned to constitute 34.2% of the Fund's  
10 \$9.7 billion of net assets.

11 33. By deviating from the Fund's investment guidelines into higher-risk investments,  
12 the Fund's performance improved markedly. In 2005, the Fund achieved returns of 3.4%,  
13 significantly surpassing the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index which achieved a return of  
14 2.4%. Furthermore, the Fund's 2005 returns outpaced the average approximate 2.5% return of  
15 the 115 other ultrashort bond funds within the Morningstar ultrashort bond fund category. In  
16 2006, the Fund achieved returns of 5.6% and 5.5% for the Select and Investor Shares,  
17 respectively, while, the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index achieved a return of 4.3%.  
18 Meanwhile, the Fund's 2006 returns beat the average approximate 4.7% return of the 115 other  
19 ultrashort bond funds within the Morningstar ultrashort bond fund category.

20 34. The strikingly improved performance achieved by abandoning the Fund's  
21 conservative investment guidelines succeeded in attracting new investors to the Fund. This  
22 growth began to occur in mid-to late 2005 when investors, attracted to a fund proclaiming itself  
23 to limiting fluctuations in share price but able to generate much higher returns, poured  
24 investments into the Fund. By April 30, 2005, the Fund surpassed \$5.5 billion in assets to  
25 become one of the largest ultra-short term bond funds. In fact in May 2005, Lipper and  
26 Morningstar, mutual fund industry analysts, named the Fund as the best performer in its class.

35. In March 2007, the Fund was awarded a Lipper Performance Achievement Certificate for 2006. Schwab Management attributed the Fund's success to their research acumen, rather than increased – and undisclosed – risks that the Fund had assumed:

To be No. 1, you have to do everything well and capitalize in all areas — trading, credit analysis and portfolio management – not just outperform in one aspect... Our overall performance might receive the attention, but we're especially pleased with our risk-adjusted performance. That is what's important to our investors. We don't seek to hit homeruns, but we aim for a lot of singles and the occasional double. These funds have great long-term records because of consistent out performance, little by little, every month.

36. By May 31, 2007, the Fund's assets reached over \$13 billion.

37. Defendants did not disclose that the Fund's success resulted from a shift into higher-risk mortgage backed investments that significantly increased the Fund's risk profile, in violation of its investment guidelines. To the contrary, throughout the Class Period, Defendants continued to market the Fund through untrue statements in the Prospectuses that described a strategy of investing in short-duration bonds that were only marginally more risky than investing in cash equivalents. Yet those Prospectuses conceded that the risk to the Fund "is greater when the fund holds bonds with longer maturities."

38. By May 31, 2007, 47% of the Fund's \$13.3 billion in assets were invested in mortgage backed securities. The overwhelming majority of those mortgage backed securities – 38% of the Fund's assets – were held in the form of CMOs, complex instruments comprised of pools of mortgage-backed securities, which are illiquid. By November 30, 2007, investments in CMOs grew to 40% of the Fund's assets.

39. The following chart demonstrates how the percentage of the Fund's assets invested in illiquid CMOs progressively increased during the Class Period:

Net Assets as of:	Net Assets (in thousands)	Net Assets Invested in CMOs (in thousands)	% of Net Assets Invested in CMOs
11/30/2004	\$4,555,561	\$307,213	6.74%
11/30/2005	\$6,140,832	\$1,131,116	18.42%
11/30/2006	\$9,687,744	\$2,833,799	29.25%
5/31/2007	\$13,277,983	\$5,045,698	38%
11/30/2007	\$8,026,701	\$3,172,982	39.53%



1           40.     The Fund's dependence for its success on heavy investments in mortgage-backed  
2 securities, including those backed by subprime mortgages, tied the Fund's fate to that of the  
3 mortgage market. The collapse of that market revealed to Plaintiff and the Class the extent to  
4 which the Fund had deviated from its investment guidelines and exposed investors to high-risk  
5 instruments that soon proved illiquid.

6           41.     Specifically, in the first quarter of 2007, major mortgage lenders announced  
7 striking increases in the default rates for subprime loans. These defaults forced many subprime  
8 mortgage lenders into bankruptcy, and caused the value for securities backed by subprime and  
9 other mortgages to plummet.

10          42.     Beginning in late 2007 and accelerating through the first quarter of 2008, the  
11 Fund took massive write-downs as it marked the value of its mortgage-backed investments down  
12 to their reduced market values. Those write-downs caused a commensurate decline in the Fund's  
13 Net Asset Value ("NAV"), which in turn caused investors to abandon the Fund. According to a  
14 letter posted on Schwab's website on March 20, 2008, the Fund's assets had declined to  
15 approximately \$2.5 billion as of March 20, 2008, from a high of over \$13.0 billion as of May 30,  
16 2007.

17          43.     Defendants did not disclose that the Fund's rapid decline was the result of risky  
18 investments made in violation of the Fund's investment guidelines. Instead, in November 2007,  
19 Schwab, in an e-mail response to the Plaintiff's query as to the reason for the decline of the  
20 Fund's NAV, stated that the decline was due to a "wholesale downward repricing of the mortgage  
21 and asset backed sectors by Interactive Data Corp., the independent pricing agency."

22          44.     On March 20, 2008, Schwab Management released a statement blaming "market  
23 pessimism and forced selling of bonds by institutional leveraged investors" as "two of the  
24 reasons why the fixed income market continues to suffer." That statement also reported that  
25 between "June 29, 2007, and March 20, 2008, approximately \$0.60 of the \$1.91-per share  
26 decline in NAV" of the Fund represented "unrealized losses." Schwab Management did not  
27 disclose that the Fund's precipitous decline resulted from its abandonment of the investment  
28 strategy touted in the Prospectuses.

45. In fact, the harm to Plaintiff and the Class did not result from market conditions endemic to bond mutual funds in general, or to short-duration bond funds in particular. The devastation wrought by the Fund's venture into high-risk investments did not impact the Fund's peers, which, having avoided long-term mortgage-backed securities in accordance with their profile as short-term bond funds, continued to generate positive returns even as market for mortgage-backed securities collapsed. For example, whereas the Fund was ranked by Morningstar in the top 25% within the ultrashort bond fund category for 2006, for 2007, its ranking fell to the bottom 25% based on the returns of -1.04% and -1.24% for the Select and Investor Shares, respectively. The Fund's performance continued to decline in 2008, with year-to-date returns as of March 31, 2008, of -19.8% and -19.9% for the Select and Investor Shares, respectively.

46. Meanwhile, the Fund's peers within the Morningstar ultrashort bond funds category fared much better achieving average returns of 2.57% for 2007 and -1.47% for 2008 as of March 31. Furthermore, the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index posted returns of 7.0% for 2007 and 2.2% for 2008 as of March 31.

#### **UNTRUE STATEMENTS AND OMISSIONS**

47. The Registration Statements and Prospectuses used throughout the Class Period to register and offer Select and Investor Shares of the Fund to Plaintiff and the Class contained untrue statements of material facts and omitted material facts necessary to make the statements therein not misleading. While the four Prospectuses issued during the Class Period, identified in ¶10, *supra*, were not identical, they did contain many of the same untrue statements and were rendered misleading by the same omissions.

48. Specifically, all of the Registration Statements and Prospectuses stated that "the fund seeks to maintain an average portfolio duration of one year or less" in order to "maintain share price stability and preserve investor capital."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The 2004 and 2005 Prospectuses stated that, through this strategy, the Fund sought to maintain a "high degree" of share price stability.

1           49. Each of the Prospectuses also explicitly incorporated by reference a Statement of  
2 Additional Information and the Fund's Annual Report for that year, each of which provided  
3 investors with additional guidance about, *inter alia*, the Fund's investment strategies and  
4 limitations. The Statements of Additional Information and Annual Reports incorporated in the  
5 Prospectuses were part of the Prospectuses, and contained additional untrue statements of  
6 material facts and omitted material facts necessary to make the statements therein not  
7 misleading.

8           50. The Statements of Additional Information listed numerous limitations on the  
9 Fund, including limitations on the Fund's ability to invest in a given industry and ability to invest  
10 in illiquid instruments. Specifically, the Statements of Additional Information stated that the  
11 Fund could not

12                   Purchase securities (other than securities issued or guaranteed by  
13                   the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities) if, as a  
14                   result of such purchase, 25% or more of the value of its total assets  
15                   would be invested in any industry or group of industries (except  
                    that each fund may purchase securities to the extent that its index is  
                    also so concentrated).

16           51. The Statements of Additional Information in fact reiterated that restriction, stating  
17 separately that the Fund could not "Concentrate investments in a particular industry or group of  
18 industries, as concentration is defined under the 1940 Act, or the rules or regulations thereunder,  
19 as such statute, rules and regulations may be amended from time to time." To explain the term  
20 "Concentration", the Statements of Additional Information further stated: "Concentration. The  
21 SEC has presently defined concentration as investing 25% or more of an investment company's  
22 net assets in an industry or group of industries, with certain exceptions."

23           52. The Statements of Additional Information also stated that the Fund could not  
24 "Invest more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities." This statement was untrue or  
25 misleading because, in fact, the Fund's investments in illiquid securities such as CMOs  
26 represented more than 15% of its assets during the Class Period, with CMOs constituting 40% of  
27 the Fund's portfolio in November 2007.

53. The Annual Reports reiterated the Fund's investment objectives and guidelines, and touted the Fund's performance. For example, the 2005 Annual Report, incorporated in the 2005 Prospectus, included a message from Charles Schwab which stated "I'm especially pleased to highlight the strong performance of Schwab YieldPlus Fund which has placed in the top ten in its category since inception. With a target duration of just under a year, this fund is designed for your longer-term cash holdings." The 2005 Annual Report also included a message from Defendant Dilsaver, President and CEO of Schwab Management, which credited the success of the Fund with generating additional investments: "Lead [*sic*] by the popularity of Schwab YieldPlus Fund, our bond fund assets have grown to over \$9 billion as of the close of the report period."

54. The 2005 Annual Report also touted the Fund's performance without explaining that such performance was achieved by violating the Fund's guidelines and restrictions on illiquid investments and investment concentrations, as discussed above. The Annual Report stated:

SCHWAB YIELDPLUS FUND was positioned for continued economic expansion and performed very well, with both share classes of the fund beating both the benchmark and category-average. The fund's emphasis on medium to higher quality corporate bonds helped performance in an environment in which the spreads between the low and high quality bonds remained narrow. The portfolio also carried a sizable investment in floating rate securities and in asset-backed securities, particularly home equity loans. During the report period, we took steps to reduce our exposure to lower quality investments, including those in the corporate and asset-backed sectors. We took this step because we believed that the incremental reward offered by higher risk securities did not compensate for the added risk.

55. Similarly, the 2006 Annual Report stated:

The Schwab YieldPlus Fund Investor Shares returned 4.64%, beating its benchmark, the Lehman Brothers U.S. Short Treasury: 9-12 months, which was up 3.72% for the one-year period. The Fund was positioned for continued economic expansion and performed very well, with both share classes of the Fund beating the benchmark and category average. The Fund emphasized investments in higher-quality corporate bonds issued by companies that were expected to outperform during an economic recovery and

1 held a smaller weighting in government securities. The Fund was  
2 generally positioned to manage against interest rate increases by  
3 maintaining sizable positions in floating-rate securities and staying  
4 close to the short end of its duration range. During the period, the  
5 Fund reduced its exposure to lower quality investments, including  
6 those in the corporate and asset-backed sectors. This step was  
7 taken because the incremental reward offered by higher risk  
8 securities did not compensate for the added risk.

6 **THE FUND'S TRUE CONDITION IS REVEALED**

7 56. In late July of 2007, the Fund's NAV began to decrease, reflecting the diminution  
8 in the value of the Fund's assets. From a Class Period-high of \$9.89 per share, the NAV steadily  
9 declined to just \$8.75 at the beginning of March 2008, and then plunged to a low of \$7.28 per  
10 share as of March 28, 2008. This decline reflected a loss in the Fund's value of over \$2.55 per  
11 share since May 2007. From March 28 through April 11, 2008, the Fund's NAV per share  
12 plunged further declining to \$6.80, reflecting a loss in the Fund's value of approximately \$3.03  
13 per share since May 2007.

14 57. Schwab Management has yet to acknowledge its responsibility for directing the  
15 Fund's investments into risky, long-duration mortgage-backed instruments that caused the losses  
16 incurred by Plaintiff and the Class, and instead have sought to place the blame elsewhere. For  
17 example, in a March 20, 2008 letter to investors, Schwab Management stated "market pessimism  
18 and forced selling of bonds by institutional leveraged investors are two of the reasons that the  
19 fixed income market continues to suffer." That letter continued to tout the Fund to investors by  
20 stating "YieldPlus invests in a diversified group of securities across a broad ranges of sectors and  
21 industries." Furthermore, a subsequent letter sent to investors on March 10, 2008, stated "Even  
22 though YieldPlus is a highly diversified fund, it reflects the declines we have seen in non-  
23 Treasury securities, including mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities, where reduced  
24 demand has been the primary driver of decreasing valuations."

25 58. Even as Schwab Management deflected responsibility for the Fund's losses and  
26 tried to reassure investors, other Schwab mutual funds were pulling their investments from the  
27 Fund. Indeed, a Management Letter posted on the Fund's website on April 1, 2008 stated that,  
28 as of that day, other Schwab funds had liquidated all of their holdings in the Fund and no longer

1 held any of its shares. That letter continued to deflect responsibility for the Fund's losses, stating  
2 "In recent weeks, market pessimism and forced selling of bonds by institutional leveraged  
3 investors are two of the reasons that the fixed income market continues to suffer."

#### 4 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

5 59. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
6 Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a class consisting of all persons or entities who acquired  
7 shares of the Fund traceable to the Registration Statements and Prospectuses and who were  
8 damaged thereby (the "Class"). Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the Officers and  
9 Directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their  
10 legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants have or had  
11 a controlling interest.

12 60. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members if  
13 impracticable. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time  
14 and can only be ascertained through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are  
15 hundreds of members in the proposed Class. Record owners and other members of the Class  
16 may be identified from records maintained by Registrant or its transfer agent and may be notified  
17 of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily used  
18 in securities class actions.

19 61. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all  
20 members of the Class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of  
21 federal law that is complained of herein.

22 62. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the  
23 Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation.

24 63. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and  
25 predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the  
26 questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

- 27 • whether the Securities Act was violated by the Defendants' acts as alleged;



- whether statements made by the Defendants to the investing public in the Registration Statements and Prospectuses misrepresented material facts about the business, operations and management of the Fund; and
- to what extent the members of the Class have sustained damages and the proper measure of damages.

64. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to redress individually the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

### **COUNT I**

#### **VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 11 OF THE SECURITIES ACT AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

65. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates each allegation set forth above.

66. This Count is brought pursuant to Section 11 of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77k against all Defendants.

67. The Registration Statements for the Fund contained untrue statements of material facts, omitted to state other facts necessary to make the statements made not misleading, and/or omitted to state material facts required to be stated therein.

68. The Defendants named herein were responsible for the contents and dissemination of the Registration Statements. The Individual Defendants each signed some or all of the Registration Statements.

69. None of the Defendants named herein made a reasonable investigation or possessed reasonable grounds for the belief that the statements contained in the Registration Statement were true and without omissions of any material fact and were not misleading.

70. By reasons of the conduct herein alleged, each Defendant violated Section 11 of the Securities Act.



79. Plaintiff and putative Class members who do not opt out, hereby tender their shares in the Funds.

### **COUNT III**

#### **VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 15 OF THE 1933 ACT AGAINST DEFENDANTS SCHWAB, SCHWAB CORP. AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS**

80. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates each allegation set forth above.

81. This Count is brought pursuant to Section 15 of the Securities Act against Defendants Schwab Corp., Schwab and the Individual Defendants.

82. Each of the Individual Defendants was a control person of one or more of the Defendant Schwab entities named herein by virtue of his or her position as trustee and/or senior officer of the Fund and/or one or more of the Defendant Schwab entities. Schwab and Schwab Corp. were control persons of Schwab Investments and Schwab Management.

### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

1. Determining that this action is a proper class action and certifying Plaintiff as Class representative under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

2. Awarding compensatory damages in favor of Plaintiff and the other Class members against all the Defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of the Defendants' wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;

3. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class their reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees;

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4. Awarding recessionary damages; and
5. Such equitable, injunctive or other relief as deemed appropriate by the Court.

Dated: April 21, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

BERNSTEIN LITOWITZ BERGER  
& GROSSMANN LLP



BLAIR A. NICHOLAS

BLAIR A. NICHOLAS  
12481 High Bluff Drive, Suite 300  
San Diego, CA 92130  
Tel: (858) 793-0070  
Fax: (858) 793-0323

*Counsel to Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension  
Plan and Proposed Lead Counsel to the Class*

**CERTIFICATION OF VINAYAK R. PAI  
IN SUPPORT OF CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT OF  
VINAYAK R. PAI DEFINED BENEFITS PENSION PLAN**

Vinayak R. Pai, hereby declares under penalty of perjury, as follows:

1. My name is Vinayak R. Pai. I am sole beneficiary of the Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension Plan, plaintiff in the foregoing class action. I make this Certification in support of the Class Action Complaint filed by the Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension Plan.
2. I have reviewed the Class Action Complaint and authorized its filing.
3. I did not engage in transactions in the securities which are the subject of the action at the direction of plaintiff's counsel or in order to participate in this or any other litigation under the securities laws of the United States.
4. I am willing to serve as a representative party on behalf of the class, including providing testimony at deposition and trial, if necessary.
5. Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension Plan and I have made no transactions during the class period in the debt or equity securities that are the subject of this action except those set forth in the Certificate.
6. I have not, within the three years preceding the date of the certification, sought to serve or served as a representative party on behalf of a class in an action involving alleged violations of the federal securities laws, except as set forth in the certificate.
7. Vinayak R. Pai Defined Benefits Pension Plan and I will not accept any payment for serving as representative on behalf of a class beyond the party's pro rata share of any recovery, unless ordered or approved by the Court pursuant to section 27(a)(4) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77z-1(a)(4), or section 21D(a)(4) of the Securities Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed this 21 day of April, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VINAYAK R. PAI



**VINAYAK R. PAI DEFINED BENEFITS PENSION PLAN  
TRANSACTIONS IN THE SCHWAB YIELDPLUS FUND**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Trans</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Amount</b>
05/16/06	Buy	18,097.208	9.67	\$175,000.00
05/31/06	Buy	6,686.198	9.66	\$ 64,588.67
08/25/06	Buy	8,659.007	9.66	\$ 83,646.01
10/10/06	Buy	4,596.583	9.67	\$ 44,448.96
07/20/06	Sell	(4,038.000)	9.66	\$ (39,007.08)
09/07/06	Sell	(1,500.000)	9.67	\$ (14,505.00)
06/14/07	Sell	(5,000.000)	9.68	\$ (48,400.00)
07/16/07	Sell	(6,500.000)	9.66	\$ (62,790.00)
08/01/07	Sell	(935.000)	9.61	\$ (8,985.35)
11/12/07	Sell	(544.000)	9.38	\$ (5,102.72)